#### AFFAIRS AT WASHINGTON.

MATTERS BEFORE CONGRESS. WHY CERTAIN CONGRESSMEN ARE ANXIOUS ABOUT THE RIVER AND HARBOR BILL-CONJECTURES ABOUT AN EXTRA SESSION-WILY IT IS LIKELY TO BE HILD-CAPTAIN EADS NOT DISCOURAGED.

The correspondent of THE TRIBUNE at Washington points out some of the peculiar features of the River and Harbor Appropriation bill, and explains why some Southern Congressmen are so anxious for its passage. There is considerable talk of an extra spring session of Congress among the representatives of both parties, since it is regarded as almost impossible for Congress to finish the work that is awaiting action before March 4. Many important bills have hardly been referred to as yet. Captain Eads says that he is not discouraged because the House laid the Ship Railway bill upon the table, and thinks that in time it will receive favorable consideration.

TALKING OF AN EXTRA SESSION. CHE APPROPRIATION BILLS THAT MUST BE CONSID-ERED AND PASSED - PROBABILITY THAT THE TIME REMAINING TO THIS CONGRESS WILL NOT SUFFICE. INT TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13,-There is already considerable talk among politicians in Washington respecting the probability of a spring session of the XLVIIth Congress, and there are members of both parties who not only think such an event probable, but who are in favor of it. The condition of the work before Congress is such as to justify some apprehensions among members who do not desire an extra sessioff. There are two of the large appropriation bills which will not be reported to the time for any action upon week. Indeed it is somein time for doubtful whether either the Sundry Civil bill or the General Deficiency bill will be brought into the House before a week from to-morrow. The Agricultural bill has been reported, and may be passed by the House this week. It will be likely to evoke considerable discussion, as the amount recommended \$292,000 is about \$40,000 in excess of last year's bill. Unless the River and Harbor bill makes more rapid progress than it did yesterday, it will not pass the House before next Saturday. Several features of it will undoubtedly be debated thoroughly, and the opponents of the most vicious features of the measure express their determination to make a good many five-minute speeches, and to offer various amendments. Mr. Cox is still hopeful of the passage of a Reapportiontment hill, but it is difficult to see how it can be accomplished within the next tifteen days. Every day after this week until March 4 will be needed for the consideration of the general appropriation bills. Probably every one of them will at last be shaped by conference committees in the very last hours of the session. If the Refunding bill should come back from the Senate as early as Thursday, which is not very probable, it would be practicable for the House to discuss the Senate amendments in Committee of the Whole and perhaps to reach a vote this week. Otherwise, if the Refunding bill becomes a law at all before March 4, it will be as a compromise measure framed by a conference committee.

Several Republican Senators have already openly expressed the opinion that the failure of the Refunding bill would make necessary the calling of an extra session. Mr. Frye and some other Republican members of the House express a contrary opinion. Neither do they agree with Senator Edmunds and other Republicans who favor a called session in order that the House Committee on Elections may be organized and instructed to investigate the suppression of the Republican vote in a number of Congressional districts in the Southern States. Those who advocate this course are impelled to do so, because they believe that unless Southern Republicans are reassured by some action of the House of Representatives, it will be impossible for any Republican who has cerved a notice of contest in any Congressional district in South Carolina, Alabama, Mississippi, or Louisiana, to procure the testimony of witnesses to establish his claim, how-ever just it may be. The recent outrageous pro-reedings in the Hd Florida District are cited to reedings in the lid Florida District are determined support this view of the matter, and with considerable effect. There are Republican members of the House too, who in view of the political complexion of the present State Legislatures are anxious that the new apportionment of Representatives shall be made before next winter. They think that a Reapportionment could be passed at an extra session while they have nearly abandoned all hope of one

THE RIVER AND HARBOR BILL. PROBABLE FURTHER CONSIDERATION TO-DAY-REA-SONS WHY CERTAIN CONGRESSMEN ARE INTER-ESTED IN APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE ALLEGED IMPROVEMENT OF UNIMPORTANT STREAMS.

IBY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE WASHINGTON, Feb. 13 .- It is expected that the House of Representatives will proceed to-morrow with the consideration of the River and Harbor bill. The action upon the bill yesterday shows that the Committee on Commerce is determined to proceed as rapidly and with as little debate as practicable. and to allow no amendment of the bill if it can be prevented. The simple offering of an amendment yesterday to one of the items was characterized by Mr. Reagan as filibustering.

The manner of making up a River and Harbor bill by the Commerce Committee is not very generally understood, and still less is known by the public of the preliminary management by which the initial improvements" of trout streams are authorized and thereafter continued. In every River and Harbor bill a lump sum (the amount recommended this year is \$100,000) is appropriated for "examinations or surveys or both, and estimates of cost of improvements proper" to be made at certain points desigsated. The streams, bayous, harbors etc., to be surveyed next year are sixty or seventy in number. Among them is "Little Tennessee River from its mouth on the Holston or Big Tennessee River to the mouth of Tallis River." The preliminary surveys and estimates are usually made by a civilian assistant engineer. This s uniformly the practice where the streams be surveyed are so small as to be unknown except graphy of a county or a township. Of course, a Congressman, having secured the designation of a stream in his district, takes care that the assistant engineer who is sent to examine it is well treated by the people in the vicinity and is duly furnished by them with statistics of the number of oop poles, the number of pounds of feathers, beesetc., and the number of dozen of eggs which would go to swell the commerce of the country if that particular creek were improved. Turning over the reports of these assistants one constantly finds their acknowledgments "for courtesies" received foring their sojourn among the hospitable inhabitants who live on the banks of the streams which they have explored. The assistant usually makes a glowing report of the creek which he has surveyed from s skiff, as he pursued his pleasant journey. He conentionaly notes the obstructions to navigation in the form of "boulders," "overhanging trees," " mill dams," "fish-traps," "bridges without draws," olds," etc.; he enlarges upon the agricultural or other resources of the region, expatiates upon the fertility of the soil, the size and quality of the limber, the beauties of the landscape, and the pitality of the people, and he winds with an estimate of the cost of improving the newly discovered artery of com-merce. Rarely indeed, if ever, does the assistant engineer report that it is impracticable to make a stream navigable. In his lexicon there is no such

es this report sends it to the Chief of Engineers,

ment of his subordinates, uniformly adopts their reports and recommendations. At this stage of the occedings the Congressman again appears upon the scene. He besieges the rooms of the Commerce Committee, and lays in wait for individual members of that committee. He forms combinations with other Congressmen who want improvements for creeks and rivulets in their districts. Sometimes he is a member of the Commerce Committee himself, and then his task is a very easy one. He can take care of all the streams in his State. Thus Mr. Reagan, of Texas, who is chairman of the committee, has managed this year secure \$750,000 for his State, and the other fourteen members of the committee have been able to secure appropriations for their respective States to the amount of nearly \$4,500,000. work has once been begun upon a stream, however unimportant it may be, it is usually continued through a long series of years. Engineers like a steady job as well as Congressmen do large and regular appropriations.

The bill now under consideration in the House of Representatives is by all odds the worst of the kind which has ever emanated from the Commerce Committee. It includes about twice as many items as the similar bill did eight years ago, and nearly all the additions are for appropriations to improve rivers, creeks and bayous which no amount of money could make navi-gable in any respectable sense. Take for ex-ample the "Tradewater River," which is a new acquaintance. This stream is situated somewhere in Kentucky. No thorough survey of this river has ever been attempted. The assistant engineer reports that "the improvement of the Tradewater River so as to make it navigable at all times would greatly benefit the region through which it flows." He thinks it could be prepared, "for descending navigation only," by the emoval of all snags, drifts, detached rocks or boulders, fish-dams, etc., and the overhanging trees on its banks. Captain Cuyler, of the engineers, reports that slackwater navigation might be obtained the construction of locks 120 feet long by 20 feet wide; larger locks, he thinks, would be useless, because the stream would not afford water enough to make them of any service. The "descending navigation only" apply to flat-boats and timber-rafts. Captain Cuyler guesses that the improvement would cost about \$118,000, but confesses that this estimate is based upon no trustworthy data. He adds that "to improve the present natural navigation to any useful extent it is estimated that the sum of at least \$10,000 would be required." The Commerce Committee has recommended an appropriation of \$3,000, which sum will do no good whatever. But this is only the entering wedge. The River

and Harbor bill this year contains an item of \$20,000 for the Little Kanawha River in West Virginia. Upon this stream \$58,000 had already been appropriated. The engineer says that the object of "the present plan of improvement" is "the attainment of raft and push-boat navigation at lower stages than was before practicable," and be lower stages than was before practicable," and he estimates that to complete the improvement of the stream for these purposes will require an additional expenditure of \$900,000. This mountain torrent will then be navigable for "push-boats" for a distance of about eights miles. For continuing the improvement of the Great Kanawha in the same State—a river which is certainly "great" in respect to the amount of money required to make it navigable—an appropriation of \$200,000 is to be made in addition to the \$1,200,000 which has been sunk in the same stream within the last five years. To complete the improvement it is estimated that about \$2,500,000 more will be needed. For the Gayandotte River, also in West Virginia, \$3,500 is asked in addition to \$5,000 heretofore appropriated. "Raft navigation primarily and pash-boat navigation ultimately" are sought on this stream. The engineer wisely forbears to estimate the probable ultimate cost of this struggle against nature, and he remarks: "No permanent or entire completion" can be made under the present project. It appears that several private mill-dams must be removed before even raft and push-boat navigation can be secured. The assistant engineer triumphantly reports that an old mill-dam at "Little Ugiy Shools" has been removed, making a good channel for push-boats and timber raits. "Mill-dams" and "brush heaps on the bars" are very frequently mentioned in the reports as obstacles to the navigation of the great arteries of commerce that flow through the mountain valleys of West Virginia. Thus the engineer's report on the Elk River improvement contains the following preguant sentence: "Before the river can be considered properly prepared for the full development of the trade upon it, some or all of estimates that to complete the improvement of the

gineer's report on the Elk River improvement contains the following pregnant sentence: "Before the river can be considered properly prepared for the full development of the trade upon it, some or all of the private mill-dam should certainly be removed or modified"; otherwise the present idea "of making an open navigation of ten or tweive unclies depth" will have to be abandoned. For the Elk River an appropriation of \$5,000 is asked in addition to the \$10,000 hitherto appropriated. And it is estimated that the work can be completed for "raft and push-boat navigation" by an additional expenditure of \$90,000.

The Big Sandy River in Kentucky has swallowed up \$79,000 of the public money in the last three years; \$20,000 is to be appropriated for next year; and the estimated additional cost of carrying out the present plan of improvement is \$1.872,000. "The natural channels are narrow, obstructed, and with as little as three inches of water in them at low stages over shoals and ripples." The water was not so deep before the \$79,000 was expended for the assistant engineer reports that "the amount expended has considerably widened and deepened these channels and rendered the navigation easier." The engineer remarks that "the plan of improving the natural channels does not admit from its nature of a permanent completion"; gation easier." The engineer remarks that the plan of improving the natural channels does not plan of improving the narmanent completion.":

plan of improving the natural channels does not admit from its nature of a permanent completion "; the outlook for the future is, therefore, more cheerful for the contractors and Kentucky Congressmen than it is for the taxpayers.

The bill contains an item of \$2,500 for "Obed's" River, in Tennessee, in addition to an appropriation of \$4,000 made last year. In regard to this appropriation the Engineer Department is in somewhat of a quandary. It appears that "Obey," as well as "Obed," has a river in Tennessee, and that "Obey's" River, too, is the one which was surveyed. The vigilant members of the Commerce Committee, who sat up nights to study Commerce Committee, who sat up nights to study the engineer's reports and construct a River and Harbor bill which they and its friends all declare to Harbor bill which they and its friends all declare to be perfect, have not yet discovered the discrepancy, although it is made perfectly obvious on page 1,688 of the report of the Chief of Engineers. The committee is perhaps entitled to one excuse—Tennessee has no representative in the committee and nobody except a Tennessean should expect to be well enough acquainted with the local geography of that State to be able to distinguish between "Obey's" River and "Obed's" River.

#### THE SHIP RAILWAY BILL. IBY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13 .- In conversation with a TRIBUNE correspondent this evening Captain Eads said: "I am not at all discouraged by the action of the House in laying the interoceanic railway matter upon the table. I remember that the proposition for opening the Mouth of the Mississippi River was defeated in the first session when it was introduced. This action undoubtedly indicates that no action will be taken by the House at this session unless the subject comes before it as a measure from the I have been before the Sen-Committee on Foreign Relations Senate. ate once and am to address the committee further on next Tuesday. The action of the House simply shows the opposition of one member of the body, and rather indicates a fear on his part that the House would consider the subject favorably if any discussion of the real merits of the proposition was to take place. The bill was introduced at a was to take place. The bill was introduced at a most unfortunate time, and was laid aside simply because of its antagonism with important measures which had been longer under consideration by members of the body. Singularly enough at the very time Mr. Page, of California, was making his efforts to dispose of the ship railway proposition adversely, the Legislature of his State was considering resolutions warmly approving it, as is proved by a dispatch to me from the Speaker of the California House of Representatives, who says that the resolutions approving the scheme passed by the House yesterday undoubtedly expressed the sentiment of the people of California.

## EMIGRANT RATES SETTLED.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 13.-It is understood with his favorable indorsement. The more money he can get to expend on internal improvements in his district the more popular he will be. The Chief of Engineers, relying mon the judgthat under an agreement with the four trunk lines the emigrant rates between New-York and the West have restored the tariff rates of January 1st., \$13 from New-York, and \$11 50 from Philadelphia to Chicago. DAMAGE DONE BY STORMS.

GREAT LOSS OF PROPERTY REPORTED. LITTLE OBSTRUCTION IN THE MAST-A GREAT SNOW STORM IN THE WEST-RAILROAD TRAINS BLOCK-ADED.

The floods caused by the rains and melting snow did little damage in the East, but in parts of the South and West the loss will be heavy. Travel to the South by way of Washington is much impeded. At Toledo the water is falling. Trains were unable to leave several Western cities, on account of the great depth of the drifts.

THE SITUATION AT WASHINGTON.

THE EXTENT OF THE DAMAGE-AN ICE GORGE FORMUD IN THE POTOMAC-APPREHENSIONS OF FURTHER LOSS.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13 .-- The flood which came rushing down the Potomac River Saturday morning, submerging the lower portions of the city for nearly twenty-four bours, has subsided. An immense ice gorge, extending from above the city to a point several miles below it, and reaching nearly over to the Virginia shore, has been formed, and now lies immovable, threatening destruction to the wharveand to a number of steamboats lying at them when it breaks up. The damage already to vessels, wharves and property along the river front is variously estimated at from \$50,000 to \$100,000. Most of the wharf owners to night are of the opinion that the great danger is yet to come, when this immense field of accumulated ice moves past the city. The damage to property and merchandise in that portion of the city which was foundated will probably reach \$100,000, and in Georgetown, along the wharves and in the storehouses, the damage will probably amount to \$75,000. The section of the Long Bridge—about 200 rect in length—which was swept away last night was carried about 100 yards down the river, on the fists, where it now hes badly wrecked, wedged in with broken ice.

Telegraphic communication with the South is badly interfered with, as all the telegraphic cables at the Long Bridge have been carried away, and to-alght only two out of over twenty wires are in working order between Washington and Alexandria.

REPORTS FROM MANY STATES. RAILROADS UNDER WATER-ALARM FELT IN NEW ORLEANS-HEAVY SNOW BLOCKADES IN THE WEST-TRAINS UNABLE TO LEAVE COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA-GREAT DELAY CAUSED BY THE

BORDENTOWN, N. J., Feb. 13 .- The freshet has done considerable damage here. The railroad tracks between Trenton and Burington City are under water, Since midnight the water has been on the railroad bridge on the main line between here and New-Yerk, and the bridge is in a perilcus position. Twenty-seven cars, outaining eight tons each, have been placed on it to

DRIFTS.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., Feb. 13 .- A washout on the Ston ngton Raticoad, near Appenanc, delayed all traine las night and this morning. One train went off the track, but no one was injured.

The Delaware River is faloug slowly and the toe is mov ing out rapid'y. The loss by the flood is fully \$50,000. The members of the Buckley family are said to be still imprisoned on Conneshauen Island without food. but it is thought they will escape in the night.

wanna is moving rapidly, and fears of an ice gorge in

wanna is moving rapidly, and fears of an ice gorge in the channel above the city are making the residents uncasy. Should the streams continue to rise it is now impossible to predict the result.

Totalbo, Feb. 13.—The shlewalks here are covered with hoxes and baies of dry goods and other merchandise which mave been taken from the echars of the wholesale houses. Tals afternoon tarer are nine feet of water in the Union 8 ation. Hundreds of freight-cars and several bosomotives are nearly covered with water. The water is flied with wreckage, Below, one can see vessels which were swept from their moorings a mile and a half distant. The Council met yesterlay and anthorized an experiment in blowing up the locagorse with explosives, but the attempts were intile. It has been cold and busiering all day, sow-squalis following each other in rapid succession. At this writing, 6 p. m., it is said that the less has started again from above. If this is true every bridge with he swept away. Hopes are entertained that, the cold continuing, the water will fail and allow the lee to sink low enough to pass under the bridge.

Fit LOUIS, Feb. 13.—The weather turned very cold yesterday afternoon. All trains has hight were several hours into in arriving here.

Fit Pollis, Feb. 13.—The cold snap has agravated the snow blockade that has prevailed in Southern Minnesota for the last two weeks. On the Shoux City Road the snow is four feet deep on a level, and the dritts in some places are higher than the telegraph poles. Great off its have been made to break the blockade. A train at Mountain Lake has been blockaded for ten days. Other roads are almost as badly off.

COUNCIL BLUFFs, lowa, Feb. 13.—The severe snow storm of Friday and Saturday has completely isolated this city from the outside world, no trains having arrived or departed since Friday night, and all ratiroad travel has been suspended. Trains which left here Friday night were snow-bound all day vesterday, at a distance of 100 to 200 miles from the city. The Caleago, Burlington and

KANSAS CITY, Feb. 13.—The great storm continued until about daylight this morning, when the snow ceased fashing. Railway traffic was never so obstructed as it has been during the last twenty-four hours. Of ten railroads running into the Union Station only one sent out or brought in a passenger train. All trains on the lines going north, east, south and west were abandoned, and unless the wind goes down the blockade will last several days.

everal days. HARPER'S FERRY, W. Va., Feb. 13-4 p. m.-The water s still rising here. GEORGITOWS, D. C., Feb. 13-6 p. m.—There has been rise of one, inch since, 3 p. m. The water is now one of the of one luch since 3 p. m. The water is now one at above the wharves.

HUNTINGDON, Penn., Feb. 13.—The flood has been the nost disas tous that ever visited the Juniata Valley, oss in bridges to Huntingdon County alone being a

HARDSBURG, Penn., Feb. 13.—The Susquehanna ha Creek. Many persons were conged to move out, and to day their nouses cound only be reached by boats. The langer is apparently over. POUGHKEFFELN Y., F.b. 13.—Reports from all points show that the water in the swollen streams is falling and that there are no further fears of damage. The weather

LOCKOUT, N. C., Feb. 13.—The schooner Mary Bear, of Minington, N. C., and bound to that port with a cargo of guano from Nayassa, while achored in the hook, dragged her anchor and was driven within 100 yards of the beach during the southwesterly storm of last night.

## TEDIOUS WEATHER AT SEA.

The steamship Neckar, which arrived yesterday, reported that from the Channel to the Banks of New foundland she encountered a succession of strong southwesterly and northwesterly winds, which caused a high sea. After passing the Banks she met with much foggy weather.
The steamship Castalia had a strong southwester-

ly gale, with a heavy sea, during her voyage.
The steamship Freja encountered heavy westerly The bark Nina Sheldon met with heavy winds on

## A SHIPLOAD OF WILD ANIMALS.

The steamship Neckar, which arrived yesterday

from Bremen, had as part of her cargo a

her voyage.

collection of wild animals. companying them was Samuel P. Cox, agent for Forepaugh's menagerie. Mr. Cox left the United States last summer, ostensibly as a theatrical agent, but really with the purpose of making a colection of animals which would surpass the Barnum-Bailey combination. At Hamburg he purchased from Karl Hagenbeck this collection, estimated at not less than \$40.000 or \$50,000 in value.

He has four elephants, the largest 7 feet in height, and two "bables"; ten camels, the largest two being 7½ and 8 feet high, their back four scraping the beams of the deck above them; four leopards, a lioness, a llams, an "ajax," (an Asiatic animal of the bovine tribe); a brown bear and a "wartzenschwein" or "wart-hog" a snake known to naturaliss a sypthou tigres, or; tiger snake, from its pleasant habit of nugging to death the monarch of the jungles. It measures twenty feet in length and is very large around the body. There are two Alpine eagles from the Swiss Tyrol, one hermit cassowary and an ordinary bird of that tribe; two handsome golden pheasants, a large number of cockatoos, some with pure white plumage and high crest, tinged with pink, and others with blue breasts and gray backs; numerous monkeys and other menageric stock. Bailey combination. At Hamburg he purchased

and gray backs; numerous monkeys and other menageric stock.

The animals are stowed between decks, occupying the space required for 200 tons of freight. They were shipped under the personal supervision of Mr. Hagenbeck, and were accompanied by two attendants. Mr. Stormer, the second officer, said to a TRIBUNE reporter yesterday: "The clephants are beauties, but Charley, the biggest, is the best, and very gentle. They always kept their sea-less in the roughest weather. We lashed heavy spars in front

of them to protect them in case the ship should roll, and in heavy seas they twisted their trunks about the spars and sat down aft. The camels laid down." The naimals will be landed to-day. They bore

## GENERAL POLITICAL NEWS.

CONJECTURES FROM THE WEST. CHICAGO, Feb. 13 .- The Tribune's special dispatch from Cleveland, Ohio, contains a sensational report that according to an agreement between Senator Blaine and General Garfield, the "premiership" is to be offered to Mr. Conkling; that in case of Mr. Conkling's refusal, which would likely follow, President Garfield would then be in a position to talk back" to the Conkling faction if any of the Conkling men ever attack him. The correspondent Conking men ever attack him. The correspondent alleges that this is the object of Logan's visit to Mentor now, and as evidence of the fact that Logan is on some important mission says that he registered at one place while on the way to Mentor under an assumed name. Another reason assigned for Logan's visit is that he wants David Davis put back on the bench, thus leaving a vacancy in the Illinois Senatorial delegation.

EFFORTS FOR DEMOCRATIC HARMONY.

TWO PLANS OF REORGANIZATION TO BE DISCUSSED. The Committee of One Hundred will meet this evening at its headquarters, No. 21 West Twentyfourth-st., to consult with the committees of the various Democratic organizations from which replies have been received as to the best plan for reorganizing the Democratic party of this city. As Tammany Hall has defiantly refused to have anything to do with the proposed reorganization, the plan finally adopted by the committees of conference will probably be the one most likely to appeal so such sense of independence as the average Democratic voter possesses, small as that is. The Irving Hall Committee, or rather that is, The Irving Hall Committee, or rather that portion of it led by ex-Mayor Cooper and Commissioner Thompson, will urge the adoption of the independent Assembly District plan, partly on the ground that it is the one now prevaiing throughout the State except in this city and Brooklyn, and therefore is likely to have its effect at the next Democratic State Convention when two rival delegations from this city will apply for admission, and partly because it releves the respective Assembly District organizations from the domination of a central body. The Tammany Hall organization at the present time is really governed by a committee of one from each Assembly district, with which all important measures originate or to which they are referred. A considerable number of the Committee of the Hundred is in favor of a General Committee on the ground that there should be some central body, representing the entire organization to which questions of importance can be referred. Otherwise, they claim, there will be no manimity of purpose when a county ticket is nominated. It is on this question of organization that the discussions will turn cheefly at the meeting of conference this 6vening. one most likely to appeal to such sense of independence

#### THE ALDERMEN STILL AT SEA.

The Aldermen will meet again at noon today to make another effort to organize by the election of a president. Nothing has yet been decided on. If two or more Republicans remain away, the Board will probably elect Mr. McAvoy (Independent Tamwill probably elect Mr. McAvoy (Independent Tam-many Democrat). If all the Republicans are present, no one will probably receive a majority of the votes east, and uithoutely the Legislature may have to provide a way out of the difficulty by making a plurality vote elect. Several persons well versed in mindelpal law beineve that a plurality vote is now sufficient to elect. The charter simply provides that on the first Mr. day in January "the Board shall meet and choose a president from its own members by a call of the names of the members of the Board, upon which call each mem-ber shall abnounce his choice." Nothing is said about a majority being required to elect.

DEMOCRATS FAILING TO AGREE. No result was reached at the meeting Satirday evening of the committee on conference appo by the two rival Democratic organizations in Brooklyn Central Democratic Association. Several plans bave Central Democratic Association. Several plans have been proposed, the principal one looking toward the disbanding of the present organizations and the formation of a new General Committee. This was strongly epposed by his representatives of the Central Association, who said that there was no use of conferring unless some other basis was proposed. The conference adfourned without day.

## GENERAL FOREIGN NEWS.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN WAR. LONDON, Monday, Feb. 14, 1881. An official dispatch from Cape Town says the Government has accorded the Basutos one week's

A dispatch from Bombay announces that a regiment of cavalry and two batteries of artillery have been ordered

## THE TURCO-GREEK TROUBLES.

Count Von Hatzfeldt, the German Ambasader to Turkey, has arrived here and had a conference with the Baron Von Haymerle, the Austrian Premier and Prince Henry Reuss, the German Ambassador to

It is authoritatively stated that Mr. Goschen, the British Ambassador to Turkey, gave no indication at Berlin or Vienna of any intention on the part of Eng-land to compet the Porte ultimately to concede a new frontier to Greece.

## AUSTRIAN SOCIALISTS CONVICTED.

VIENNA, Feb. 13, 1881. Judgment has been pronounced on thirteen ocialis's who have been on irial for the last few days at the Vienua Assizes. One was convicted of high freason, and sentenced to four years' imprisonment. Another was sentenced to six months' imprisonment. All the others were acquitted.

# ICE YACHTING TO BEGIN.

POUGHKEEPSIE, N. Y., Feb. 13 .- The Hudon is in splendid condition for ice yachting. If the weather is cold enough, the regatta committees of the Poughkeepsie and New-Hamburg clubs will meet in the morning, and the indications are that a race will be or-dered here for 11 a. m. for club colors.

## STABBED BY UNKNOWN MEN.

Michael Lee, age twenty-eight, of No. 48 Forsylaist., was assaulted in the Bowery at Bayard-st.' stabled six times in the back. He was taken to the

## FRAGMENTS OF WESTERN NEWS.

A CORNER IN THE FORK MARKET.

CHICAGO, Feb. 13.—The Tribune says: "A 'corner' in the provision market is in progress which dwarfs any previous manipulation, even the great one of last year. Within a week there have been purchased 25,000,000 pounds of short ribs, 24,000 barrels of pork and 10,000 tierces of lard. The persons interested are mainly the ones who organized the successful 'deal' a year ago, and it is their intention to put prices far above the present prevailing rates."

STRANGE DISCOVERY IN A CAYE.

above the present prevailing rates."

STRANGE DISCOVERY IN A CAVE.

SOMERSET, Ky., Feb. 13.—Near Tateville, ten miles from here, is a very large cave. It has been explored for several miles, but nothing peculiar was discovered until yesterday. M. O'Gorman, assistant roadmaster, with a guide, went further than the cave had been explored before, when suddenly they were astonished by coming upon the petrified body of a human betue. It was firm as admatal, and could not be moved. Steps will be taken to remove the body and place it on exhibition.

COMPLETING A GOOD WORK.

completing a good work.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 13.—The ordinance against the variety shows of this city went into effect Saturday. It requires a license from the Mayor granted on application and signed by twelve property owners living within 400 feet of the theatre. The legitimate theatres were incensed but the indecent shows were closed because of the Mayor's refusal to issue licenses to them. The Vine Street Opers House, the most indecent of them all, was also refused a license, but Judge Avery of the Common Pieas Court granted an injunction against the Mayor enjoining him from interfering with the business of the theatre until Monday, when the motion of Colonel Snelbacker for a further injunction will be disposed of.

## TELEGRAPHIC NOTES.

TEN YEARS FOR HOMICIDE.

GALVESTON, Tex., Feb. 13.—A Long View, Tex., dispatch to The News says: In the District Court. Priday, a verdict of murder in the second degree was rendered in the case of Binham. who shot Sex too last summer. Inflicting a wound from which he subsequently died. Binham was sentenced to ten years in the pen itentiary.

ARBESTED FOR ALLEGED MURDEN.

ARRESTED FOR ALLEGED MURDER.

MFCHANICSVILLE, N. Y., Feb. 13.—Horatio
Stewart, of Fort Ann. N. Y., has been arrested on a charge of
murdering Mrs. Cynthia Sargeot at that place last September
and lodged in Sandy Hill Jail.

and lodged in Sandy Hill jail.

IN DANGER OF BEING LYNCHED.

MADISON, Fia., Feb. 13.—Savage, the inurderer of F. H. Patterson. is in jail, and the feeling against him is so bitter that the Governor has ordered out two companies of minia to guard the prisoner.

THE TELEPHONE USED TO ADVANTAGE.

SCRANTON, Penn., Feb. 13.—A notorious character named William Burke shot and khied Patrick Payton last night. Eurko was captured with the aid of a telephone four miles from hera.

#### THE ANGLO-IRISH CONFLICT.

A LARGE LONDON DEMONSTRATION. THE IRISHMEN OF LONDON AND THE ENGLISH DEMO-CRATIC CLUBS WORKING IN HARMONY-DEMON-STRATIONS BEFORE THE CONSERVATIVE AND LIBERAL CLUB-HOUSES-THE GREAT PARLIAMEN-TARY CONFLICT.

A large public meeting to express sympathy with Ireland was held in London yesterday. Some English Democratic clubs formed part of the assemblage, which was chiefly composed of Irishmen. After the meeting, demonstrations were made before the Carlton and Reform Club-houses. The general aspect of the House of Commons after the recent all-night session is described in the letter appended.

#### A LARGE MEETING IN LONDON. SYMPATHY FOR DAVITT-ENGLISH WORKINGMEN COOPERATING-A DEMONSTRATION BEFORE THE

LONDON, Feb. 13, 1881. The anti-coercion meeting which was announced yesterday was held in Hyde Park to-day. A prema ture attempt to start an independent anti-coercion demonstration in a part of the park some little distauce from the spot designated for the regular meeting lead to the beating of an unpopular and some what intoxicated orator, said to be an Irishman, who was pursued out of the gates by a rough mob. Except for this incident the meeting was much more orderly and seemingly more earnest than such gath-

An immense crowd assembled to witness the arrival of the procession. Their demeanor was that of curiosity, not of sympathy; but no opposition or hostility was manifested. The procession comprised about six bands each with a considerable following. One of the prominent figures was a soldier with a green rosette on his uniform. There were numerous banners bearing the inscriptions "Release Davitt," the land that bore us," and "Union and Victory." The procession was swelled by contingents from Magna Charta associations and Democratic workmen's clubs. When the procession halted there was a dense throng, numbering ably some thousands, and composed mainly of Irishmen, who were very enthusiastic. Among the speakers were T. P. O'Connor, the Rev. Isaac Nelson, and John Redmond, Home Rule Members of Parliament. The meeting was divided into three assemblages which were at such a distance spart as not to interfere with each other. The speakers de clared that Mr. Gladstone was raised into power by Radical workingmen and would be deposed by them. Allusious of this kind as well as remarks disparaging to the House of Lords were enthusiastically received. Resolutions were carried without dissent. At the close of the meeting the mob marched east-

ward by way of Piccadilly and St. James's-st. At the foot of St. James's-st. the conveyance containing the leaders halted in order to give their followers an opportunity to close up and make an tuposing demonstration through Pall Mall, There was vigorous groaning opposite the Guard's

Club and wherever else anyone was visible at the windows, particularly at the Carleton. Opposite the Reform Club the mob halted and the leaders called for cheers for Davitt and Cowen, and groans for the Tory member for Bradford, meaning Mr. Forster, and for the Liberal renegades, all of which were heartily given. No display of force was made by the authorities.

The first meeting of the Ladies' Land League was held at Claremorris, Ireland, to-day. Miss Parnell proposed a resolution that a ladies' branch League be established in every parish as a protest against the arrest of Davitt. The resolution was adopted. The Daily News has reason to believe that, on the information at present before it, the Irish Executive does not intend to arrest any Parliamentary leader of the Land League agitation under the provisions of the retrospective clause of the Coercion Act. held at Claremorris, Ireland, to-day. Miss Parnell

## SCENES IN PARLIAMENT

IOW THE HOUSE OF COMMONS LOOKED AFTER THE ALL-NIGHT SESSION ON THE COERCION BILL-MR. PARNELL'S APPEARANCE AND DEMEANOR-A CRITICAL POINT IN THE CONTEST-MR. BRAD-LAUGH DECLARES AGAINST OBSTRUCTION-LORD ONSPIRED A SPECTATOR OF THE CONFLICT

LONDON, Feb. 1 .- It was about 1 o'clock this norning when Mr. Gladstone, replying upon a motion of one Mr. Gabbett, announced amid cheers from both sides of the House, that the Government would resist any attempt to adjourn before the vote had been taken upon Mr. Forster's motion for leave to bring in his bill for Protection to Persons and Property in Ireland. The sitting had begun, as usual, at 4 on Monday afternoon-just a week from the time when Mr. Forster's motion was made: a motion, it should be understood, which is, in ordipary cases, a purely formal motion. Very seldom indeed is an issue made upon a bill at this preliminary stage. The custom of the House prescribes that the principle of a proposed bill shall be challenged upon the second reading which answers for practical purposes to the third reading with us. The Irish availed themselves of a purely technical right in beginning their resistance when they did. As their habit is, they used the written law for the purpose of annulling the unwritten law. They keep the letter and break the spirit. In other times this would have been a reproach which loyal men would have shrunk from. So, I shall venture to say, would loyal men now shrink from it. But the Irish glory in what the great majority of the House and the country think their shame. Be it shameful otherwise, they seized upon this technical opportunity for delay and obstruction, as others would say; for securing, as they would say, a full and free discussion. Having used it after their fashion for a week-a week which includes one sitting of twenty-two hours-they propose now to prolong it indefinitely. So far have they pushed matters that Mr. Baxter, a very advanced Liberal, asked Mr. Gladstone yesterday afternoon whether he was aware of the "strong and angry feeling excited in the large constituencies" by this pertina cious obstruction, and by the impossibility of entering upon any English or Scotch business; and what he proposed to do about it. Mr. Gladstone answered that he knew of the existence of this faeling, and feared it was likely to increase, and, while declining to say what he would do, intimated that the matter was one to which the Government was giving their attention. The result of their attention was the reply above noted. Before Mr. Baxter's question was put, however, and before the House met, Ministers had resolved to accept the fresh challenge of the Irish, and once more to do what they could to settle under the present forms of the House the still pending question whether the majority or minority of the House shall prevail. It was well understood on Monday afternoon that there was to be an all-night sitting. Arrangements were made on both sides with a view to that, and Mr. Gladstone's statement was only the official affirmation of a fact which for some hours had been present to everybody's mind.

The approaches to the House showed that some thing unusual was going on. Going down at noon, I passed a number of pale-faced men whose disorderly dress and dissipated air pointed them out as individuals who, for some reason, had chosen not to go home till morning. The men were, in fact, members of the House; their dissipation had been of a legislative kind, and the reason for their late hours as purely an Irish reason. There was no crow in Palace Yard, but Westminster Hall had a hundred or two loungers, and the outer lobby was pretty full. The inner lobby was thronged with the usual company of members burrying back and forth, and of constituents waylaying them for orders of admission. Almost the first man I met was one of the whips, whe had been up all night and was just starting for home to snatch a few hour's rest. "I don't know whether it is good night or good morning," remarked he, "but it is still Monday's sitting, and is likely to be till to-morrow; and nobody knows how much longer." On this point there was a general agreement. The Government and Opposition were working together; there was not the smallest notion of giving way: and the only question was how long the Irish could hold out; or how far the patience of the House would allow their obstruction to be carried. Going up to the gallery I found a seat with little difficulty and looked down on such a House is has not often been seen, in this or any other

The sitting had now lasted rather more than

twenty hours without intermission. The Speaker

had quitted the chair at 5 in the morning, and Dr. Lyon Playfair, the Deputy Speaker, had since occupied it-not much to the satisfaction of the House. Less than a hundred members were present, of whom twenty were Irish, who sat and sprawled in the Irish quarter of the House; while as many Conservatives and twice as many Liberals sat and sprawled in their own domains. At no time is it hought necessary to parliamentary decorum to sit bolt upright; and now less than ever. I may say; however, that the British legislator draws a line which he never passes. He never puts his feet on the desk in front of him. One reason for this is that he has no desk in front of him. But he does not put his feet on the back of the bench behind which he sits. If he sits on a front bench he feels himself at liberty to extend his legs far into the open space before him. And I think that if Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes would come over here and study the attitudes of the distinguished occupants of the Treasury bench, he would revise his well-known dictum that the American is the only man who knows what to do with the small of his back. More than one member of the Government habitually sits on his. A man may do almost anything but stand on his head on lie at full length. With all this liceuse a certain air of dignity is, in ordinary times, pretty carefully preserved, and is not quite gone even now. In the library and lobbies, the tea-room and smokingroom large forces of members are kept in reserve by the whips, and will pour in as soon as a division is called. The Treasury Bench, in which members of the Government are supposed to sit, has now exactly three tenants-the Solicitor-General for Ireland, the Under-Secretary tor the Home Department and the Lord Advocate for Scotland. The whole place has a ghastly and unnatural look, due
in part to the quality of the light. Long past noon
though it be, the gas is burning, and with the flood
of yellow light that streams through the glass ceiling, mingles the hardly less yellow light of a dull
February sky. The air is slekly. In theory the air in
the House of Commons is alwayspure, being pumped
in and out by some extremely scientific process.
In fact it is at this moment thick and nasty, and an
hour or two of it will give you an extremely fine
headache. Human beings have got the better of
scientific machinery, and pump in a great deal more
carbonne acid than the engine in the cellar can
pump out. The floor, the benches, the clerks' table,
the aisles, are littered with torn papers, yellow telegraph envelopes, volumes of Hansard, and disorderly masses of blue books—the latter most abundant in the Irish quarter, and which they have
furnished the material for so many able but
interminable speeches. The general demoralization
has visibly affected Dr. Playfair, who sits cornerwise in the Speaker's canopied chair, which is three
sizes too big for him, and who is at ease neither in
body nor mind. whole place has a ghastly and unnatural look, due THE IRISH COMBATANTS. One of the Sullivans or O'Sullivans was on his legs

when I went in. When he sat down another O'Sul-

livan, or it may have been Mr. O'Donnell, or perhaps Mr. Finnigan, or probably Mr. O'Shaughnessy, rose to continue the performance. It really me nothing what name you give a particular speaker. The Irish members have, I suppose, in private life and in the domestic relations each his own individuality, and distressing results would ensue from any confusion in their personal identity at their own country-houses or barrooms or firesides. But with the exception of three or four, they are hardly to be discriminated in public. One star differeth not from another star in glory. One speech differeth not from another speech in prolix dulness. Lord Thurlow's prediction that a machine would some day be invented for drawing bills-in-equity has come to pass, with a slight difference. None of Mr. Parnell's machines could draw bills-in-equity. All of the spin out in a mechanical way sequences of words having little connection with each other and less with the nominal subject of discussion. They violate the laws of grammar and laws of debate with equal complacency. The method is always the same. When you have sat through half an hour of obstruction you will have saturated your mind with the overflow of Irish wisdom. The next half hour will be the same, and the next, and the next. The same, I mean so far as the system, and, for the most part, the speaking, are concerned. Now and then comes an interesting, sometimes an exciting, episode. Buf the forces of obstruction and the tactics of Mr. Parnell remain substantially the same at the end of these twenty-four hours as at the beginning. The question really before the House is on Dr. Lysar's amendment to Mr. Forster's motion. The question technically before the House is a motion for adurnment, which the wisdom of our aucestors unluckily made a debatable question. When a motion for adjournment is made each member may speak on it. As there are forty Irish obstructionists, there may be forty speeches on each motion, and forty separate motions may be made. of this system therefore would not be comepletely exhausted till 1,600 speeches had been made; and there are not a few of the Irish who have proved themselves capable of speaking two hours on such a motion. Formerly they discussed the main question on pretext of debating the adjournment. Latterly the Speaker has tried to stop this, and to-day a man is pulled up if he wanders too far from his subject, and informed that the only question before the House is whether this House do adjourn. The same speeches are made over and over again, varied by outbursts of radeness, of coarse abuse, of direct impertuence to the Speaker or other members of the House: with wrangles and many other sorts of disreputable license. Perhaps Mr. Biggar reached the climax when he called Mr. Milbank a b— fool. Mr. Healy deserves mention also, and Mr. M'Coan, and—but there is nothing to be got by going through such a calleque. Suffice it to say that the manners and language of the Irish are too often those of costermongers and street ruffians. The more dull-witted and climsy of the obstruction ists are now soon, silenced. They have not ingenuity enough to connect their talk with the question, and after three of four calls to order sit down. They dare not risk being named and suspended, for continuacy would soon reduce their numbers below the working point.

On the merits of such proceedings, or on their. the House is whether this House do adjourn. The

point.

On the merits of such proceedings, or on their, farness, it would be waste of time to enlarge. The Irish themselves, being a mercurial people and averse to a too wearsome consistency of statement, have at last avowed the purpose they long strove to deay. The hypocrisy of the claim for time to debate is confessed. Mr. M'Coan and half a dozen others admitted that they only wanted to waste time, and to delay the passage of bills the inevitableness of which they also admitted. They make these avowals with just the same cynical and shameless impudence which marked their previous denials. For my part, I can only wonder at the tolerance of the House, as the long-suffering mildness of the Speaker, at the sluggishness of mind, the blind respect for precedent and tradition, the timidity, the dread of innovation, the pedantic respect for mere forms, which, with as many more motives besides, result in the strange reluctance we see to put an end to this monatrons sufrage upon Parliament. M. Gambetta's commens was the true one—that in no country but England would such a state of things be tolerated for twenty-four hours.

A NEW POINT RAISED.

The most dramatic incident of the morning oc-On the merits of such proceedings, or on their,

The most dramatic incident of the morning occurred between 1 and 2. Earlier in the day Mr. Labouchers, whose mind is fertile in every sort of ingenious expedient and invention, had hinted that doubt might exist as to the power of the Speaker to leave and resume his chair at ple Upon this hint Mr. Parnell acted. News of his intention to raise a new point went forth, and not long after 1 the Treasury Bench, which had been